



For immediate release
April 19, 2002
Contact: Jim Grebing at 573-751-9065 or
Bill Niblack at 573-751-3595

Missouri Department of
Economic Development
P.O. Box 1157
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102-1157
www.missouridevelopment.org

Missouri Labor Market Conditions Showed Little Sign of Improvement in March

Missouri's jobless rate jumped four-tenths of a point to 5.2 percent and non-farm payroll employment fell by 9,000 jobs, on a seasonally adjusted basis, in March.

"The colder, more winter-like conditions Missouri experienced last month most likely contributed to the unusually large single-month increase we experienced in the seasonally adjusted March unemployment rate," said Joe Driskill, director of the Missouri Department of Economic Development. "These statistics do serve as a reminder, however, that even as economic news seems to be improving, the state's economy and labor markets still have a long way to go to return to pre-recession conditions."

Unadjusted data show a small gain in employment and only a tenth of a point increase in the unemployment rate from 5.2 percent in February to 5.3 percent in March. However, March usually experiences a greater increase in employment and a drop in unemployment, as the factors that cause worsening labor market conditions in the winter give way to early spring improvement. Unadjusted payroll employment grew by 14,600 jobs in March.

Nine Missouri counties reported double digit unemployment rates in March, including Madison (10.0), Pemiscot (10.5), Wright (10.9), Washington (11.1), Douglas (12.2), Wayne (12.2), Reynolds (12.5), Taney (15.5) and Stone (18.3).

Boone and Nodaway counties, reported the lowest unemployment rates in the state at a mere 2.1 percent.

On the national level, the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose two-tenths of a point from 5.5 percent in February to 5.7 percent in March. The nation's unadjusted jobless rate held steady between February and March at 6.1 percent.

The industries that experienced some seasonal gain in March included construction, retail trade (especially eating and drinking places), services (especially agricultural services and amusement and recreation services), and government. In most cases, however, these increases were smaller than the usual seasonal gains in March. Seasonally adjusted data show construction dropping by 1,400 and retail trade by 3,300. Service industry and government employment remained relatively unchanged.

In what may be a significant development, manufacturing employment seems to have bottomed out. Seasonally adjusted employment had dropped by only 1,600 jobs in February and actually increased slightly by 300 in March.

Over the year, job losses continued to be substantial. Non-farm payrolls lost 59,600 jobs in the aggregate. Nearly half the decrease in employment (28,000) was in manufacturing, but all industry divisions reported some loss.



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MISSOURI UNEMPLOYMENT RATES
FOR METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREAS (MSAs), LABOR MARKET AREAS (LMAs), AND COUNTIES
CURRENT MONTH (MARCH 2002), PREVIOUS TWO MONTHS (JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 2002), AND YEAR AGO (MARCH 2001)

| | MAR 2002 | FEB 2002 | JAN 2002 | MAR 2001 | | MAR 2002 | FEB 2002 | JAN 2002 | MAR 2001 |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|----------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| | ----- | ----- | ----- | ----- | | ----- | ----- | ----- | ----- |
| U.S. (not seasonally adjusted) | 6.1 | 6.1 | 6.3 | 4.6 | Atchison | 3.1 | 3.6 | 3.7 | 3.1 |
| MISSOURI | 5.3 | 5.2 | 5.3 | 4.7 | Audrain | 4.9 | 4.2 | 4.1 | 3.8 |
| ST. LOUIS MSA | 5.3 | 5.1 | 5.3 | 4.5 | Barton | 4.3 | 4.2 | 3.9 | 4.1 |
| Franklin | 5.7 | 5.6 | 5.9 | 4.9 | Bates | 7.3 | 7.1 | 6.7 | 6.2 |
| Jefferson | 5.4 | 5.3 | 5.1 | 4.3 | Benton | 8.5 | 9.3 | 9.6 | 7.9 |
| Lincoln | 6.1 | 6.1 | 7.7 | 4.7 | Caldwell | 7.8 | 7.7 | 7.8 | 6.3 |
| St. Charles | 3.8 | 3.7 | 4.4 | 2.9 | Carroll | 5.5 | 5.6 | 4.7 | 5.3 |
| St. Louis County | 4.4 | 4.1 | 4.1 | 3.5 | Cedar | 6.3 | 5.7 | 5.2 | 5.6 |
| Warren | 5.9 | 5.6 | 7.5 | 4.9 | Chariton | 6.0 | 6.2 | 6.1 | 6.4 |
| St. Louis City | 8.6 | 8.2 | 8.1 | 7.6 | Clark | 7.9 | 7.9 | 9.0 | 7.2 |
| KANSAS CITY MSA | 4.8 | 4.8 | 5.0 | 4.1 | Cooper | 5.2 | 5.4 | 5.6 | 4.3 |
| Cass | 4.0 | 4.2 | 4.1 | 3.5 | Crawford | 7.5 | 7.0 | 7.4 | 6.4 |
| Clay | 3.7 | 3.5 | 3.4 | 3.1 | Dade | 5.7 | 5.2 | 4.9 | 4.5 |
| Clinton | 4.9 | 5.0 | 4.5 | 3.8 | Dallas | 8.9 | 9.2 | 9.0 | 6.9 |
| Jackson | 5.3 | 5.1 | 5.0 | 4.6 | Daviess | 6.0 | 5.9 | 5.2 | 6.0 |
| Lafayette | 5.3 | 5.1 | 4.7 | 4.4 | DeKalb | 8.9 | 9.2 | 7.4 | 5.6 |
| Platte | 3.8 | 3.7 | 3.4 | 2.5 | Dent | 7.5 | 8.1 | 8.6 | 9.0 |
| Ray | 4.5 | 4.3 | 4.1 | 4.9 | Douglas | 12.2 | 12.3 | 13.1 | 9.7 |
| SPRINGFIELD MSA | 4.1 | 4.0 | 4.1 | 3.5 | Dunklin | 8.4 | 8.3 | 7.9 | 8.1 |
| Christian | 4.8 | 4.8 | 4.9 | 4.6 | Gasconade | 5.9 | 6.1 | 6.7 | 5.6 |
| Greene | 3.8 | 3.7 | 3.8 | 3.2 | Gentry | 5.6 | 5.6 | 4.3 | 4.8 |
| Webster | 5.6 | 5.4 | 4.7 | 4.5 | Grundy | 5.7 | 5.3 | 5.1 | 3.7 |
| JOPLIN MSA | 4.8 | 4.5 | 4.3 | 4.4 | Harrison | 5.7 | 5.4 | 5.0 | 4.3 |
| Jasper | 4.9 | 4.5 | 4.3 | 4.4 | Henry | 6.5 | 6.9 | 6.9 | 6.4 |
| Newton | 4.6 | 4.4 | 4.3 | 4.3 | Hickory | 8.3 | 9.6 | 10.0 | 9.3 |
| COLUMBIA MSA | 2.1 | 2.0 | 2.1 | 1.6 | Holt | 4.9 | 5.1 | 4.3 | 6.3 |
| Boone | 2.1 | 2.0 | 2.1 | 1.6 | Howard | 5.5 | 5.2 | 4.7 | 5.0 |
| ST. JOSEPH MSA | 6.0 | 6.1 | 6.0 | 5.2 | Iron | 8.3 | 8.0 | 7.7 | 8.5 |
| Andrew | 5.5 | 5.6 | 5.7 | 5.4 | Johnson | 4.3 | 3.9 | 3.8 | 3.7 |
| Buchanan | 6.1 | 6.2 | 6.0 | 5.2 | Knox | 4.4 | 4.2 | 4.8 | 5.9 |
| ADAIR-SCHUYLER LMA | 4.4 | 4.2 | 4.2 | 4.5 | Laclede | 6.7 | 6.7 | 6.8 | 6.6 |
| Adair | 4.0 | 3.6 | 3.8 | 3.9 | Lewis | 5.1 | 5.0 | 4.4 | 4.8 |
| Schuyler | 6.9 | 7.2 | 6.5 | 8.1 | Linn | 6.1 | 6.4 | 8.7 | 6.4 |
| BUTLER-CARTER-RIPLEY LMA | 6.0 | 6.0 | 6.4 | 6.5 | Livingston | 3.7 | 4.1 | 3.8 | 5.1 |
| Butler | 5.5 | 5.4 | 6.1 | 6.1 | McDonald | 5.4 | 5.3 | 5.5 | 4.7 |
| Carter | 8.3 | 8.3 | 7.6 | 6.6 | Macon | 8.4 | 8.3 | 9.4 | 13.0 |
| Ripley | 6.9 | 7.0 | 7.0 | 8.0 | Madison | 10.0 | 9.6 | 9.8 | 8.1 |
| CAMDEN-MILLER LMA | 8.7 | 10.1 | 10.8 | 7.6 | Mercer | 4.8 | 4.9 | 4.0 | 4.5 |
| Camden | 8.2 | 9.8 | 10.6 | 7.2 | Monroe | 7.4 | 7.3 | 7.7 | 8.2 |
| Miller | 9.5 | 10.6 | 11.1 | 8.3 | Montgomery | 6.1 | 6.3 | 7.9 | 6.5 |
| CAPE GIRARDEAU-SCOTT-NEW MADRID LMA | 5.7 | 5.7 | 5.8 | 5.8 | Morgan | 9.0 | 9.6 | 9.7 | 7.7 |
| Bollinger | 9.0 | 9.6 | 9.6 | 7.5 | Nodaway | 2.1 | 2.4 | 1.8 | 2.5 |
| Cape Girardeau | 4.0 | 4.0 | 4.1 | 4.0 | Ozark | 7.1 | 8.0 | 8.3 | 6.4 |
| Mississippi | 8.2 | 8.7 | 8.8 | 9.8 | Pemiscot | 10.5 | 10.0 | 10.4 | 8.3 |
| New Madrid | 8.7 | 8.4 | 8.1 | 7.9 | Perry | 3.6 | 3.5 | 3.5 | 3.5 |
| Scott | 5.7 | 5.6 | 6.1 | 6.6 | Pettis | 6.6 | 6.8 | 7.6 | 5.5 |
| COLE-CALLAWAY-MONITEAU LMA | 3.5 | 3.2 | 3.6 | 3.2 | Pike | 6.2 | 5.5 | 6.5 | 5.1 |
| Callaway | 3.8 | 3.7 | 4.1 | 3.4 | Polk | 4.4 | 4.2 | 4.4 | 4.0 |
| Cole | 2.8 | 2.6 | 3.0 | 2.7 | Pulaski | 5.9 | 6.0 | 6.2 | 6.9 |
| Moniteau | 4.8 | 3.6 | 4.3 | 4.3 | Putnam | 5.4 | 5.3 | 4.7 | 4.6 |
| Osage | 4.8 | 4.8 | 5.3 | 4.4 | Randolph | 6.1 | 6.2 | 6.0 | 6.0 |
| HOWELL-OREGON-SHANNON LMA | 5.7 | 5.8 | 6.0 | 5.6 | Reynolds | 12.5 | 12.2 | 12.2 | 9.9 |
| Howell | 5.2 | 5.5 | 5.7 | 5.3 | St. Clair | 6.3 | 5.7 | 5.2 | 6.5 |
| Oregon | 5.0 | 5.5 | 5.1 | 4.5 | Ste. Genevieve | 6.2 | 6.3 | 6.2 | 5.3 |
| Shannon | 8.6 | 7.6 | 8.3 | 8.2 | Saline | 6.1 | 5.8 | 5.9 | 3.7 |
| LAWRENCE-BARRY LMA | 5.1 | 5.2 | 5.5 | 4.4 | Scotland | 6.3 | 6.3 | 6.6 | 5.0 |
| Barry | 4.7 | 5.3 | 5.5 | 4.2 | Shelby | 7.3 | 8.0 | 7.9 | 8.1 |
| Lawrence | 5.5 | 5.1 | 5.4 | 4.7 | Stoddard | 7.8 | 7.7 | 8.5 | 7.7 |
| MARION-RALLS LMA | 5.8 | 6.0 | 5.8 | 6.2 | Stone | 18.3 | 23.3 | 22.7 | 17.9 |
| Marion | 5.7 | 5.9 | 5.7 | 6.0 | Sullivan | 3.8 | 3.6 | 4.1 | 4.6 |
| Ralls | 6.0 | 6.3 | 5.9 | 6.5 | Taney | 15.5 | 20.2 | 20.4 | 15.6 |
| PHELPS-MARIES LMA | 3.8 | 4.0 | 4.1 | 3.7 | Texas | 7.0 | 7.4 | 8.0 | 6.9 |
| Maries | 5.0 | 5.3 | 5.5 | 5.1 | Vernon | 5.6 | 4.6 | 4.8 | 4.4 |
| Phelps | 3.5 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.4 | Wayne | 12.2 | 13.7 | 13.0 | 10.8 |
| ST. FRANCOIS-WASHINGTON LMA | 8.7 | 8.5 | 8.6 | 7.6 | Worth | 6.9 | 7.8 | 5.1 | 5.7 |
| St. Francois | 7.7 | 7.6 | 7.8 | 7.3 | Wright | 10.9 | 10.8 | 10.8 | 9.6 |
| Washington | 11.1 | 10.9 | 10.6 | 8.4 | | | | | |

NOTE: DATA FOR COUNTIES WITHIN MSAs/LMAs ARE DISAGGREGATED FROM MSA/LMA TOTALS.

NOTE: 2001 DATA FOR SUBSTATE AREAS HAVE BEEN REVISED BUT ARE PROVISIONAL: NOT YET OFFICIAL AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE
PRODUCED BY MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, MERIC, IN COOPERATION WITH U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS